

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /151 W

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FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3668

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2581

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG LY

SUBJECT: QADHAAFI ARRIVES IN EGYPT

1. IN LATE EVENING AUGUST 25, QADHAAFI ARRIVED UNEXPECTEDLY FROM TRIPOLI IN COMPANY OF JALLUD. EGYPTIANS WERE NOT PREPARED FOR HIS ARRIVAL, AND HAD NO RECEPTION FOR HIM AT AIRPORT.

2. INFORMATION IN THIS PARAGRAPH COMES FROM HEYKAL, WHO PROVIDED NEWSWEEK SENIOR EDITOR DEBORCHGRAVE WITH ITS SUBSTANCE ON AFTERNOON AUGUST 26. HEYKAL HAD ALREADY MET QADHAAFI BEFORE SPEAKING TO DEBORCHGRAVE. ACCORDING TO HEYKAL, AQDHAAFI'S ARRIVAL WAS A MISTAKE.

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HE HAD WANTED TO SEE SADAT AS SOON AS LATTER RETURNED

FROM VISIT TO PENINSULA; AND, ON HEARING OF RETURN OF SEVERAL OF SADAT'S PARTY TO CAIRO AUGUST 25, ASSUMED SADAT HAD ALSO RETURNED. IN FACT, SADAT HAD DEPARTED SAUDI ARABIA FOR QATAR WITH ONLY FINANCE MINISTER HEGAZY AS PRINCIPAL STAFF MEMBER, HAVING SENT REST OF DELEGATION BACK TO EGYPT. UPON ARRIVING IN CAIRO, QADHAAFI COMMANDEERED AUTOMOBILE WAITING FOR RETURN OF MINISTER OF LAND RECLAMATION FROM LONDON, AND PROCEEDED INTO CAIRO, STOPPING AT NASSER MOSQUE TO BROWBEAT AND DISMISS EGYPTIAN SECURITY SERVICE TYPES WHO WERE TAILING HIM IN SECOND CAR. QADHAAFI PROCEEDED TO NILE HOTEL FOR THE NIGHT, MOVING TO KOUBBEH PALACE THE NEXT DAY.

3. SADAT HAS NOW DECIDED TO CUT SHORT HIS VISIT TO PENINSULA TO RETURN FOR MEETING WITH QADHAAFI, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE HELD SOMETIME AUGUST 27. ALTHOUGH MEETING WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CONCERN LIBYAN/EGYPTIAN MERGER, IT IS STILL VERY UNCERTAIN AS TO WHAT WILL OCCUR, IF ANYTHING. HEYKAL TOLD DEBORCHGRAVE THAT QADHAAFI "SEEMED" TO HAVE ACCEPTED SOME FORM OF COMPROMISE ON MERGER QUESTION, BUT AHARAM'S CHIEF EDITOR GAVE NO FURTHER DETAILS OF WHAT THIS MEANT.

4. AS OF MORNING AUGUST 27, CAIRO MEDIA CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN STRICTEST BLACKOUT OF NEWS ON SADAT'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THIS IS BEING DONE AT REQUEST OF SAUDIS, ALTHOUGH REASONS ARE NOT CLEAR.
WILEY

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